Republic of Malawi

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET

Department of Disaster Management Affairs

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE CHIDO

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), has issued a warning that Tropical Cyclone Chido has developed into a **Severe Tropical Cyclone** and is moving westwards at a speed of 19 kilometres per hour (19km/h). Severe Tropical Cyclone Chido (STCC) is expected to make landfall near Nacala; Mozambique (slightly over 500km from Mulanje border) on Sunday, 15th December, 2024. There is a 60 per cent likelihood that the cyclone's remnants could reach Malawi and trigger heavy rainfall and floods in some parts of the country from 15th or 16th December, 2024.

In view of the foregoing, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), advises the general public to take the following precautionary measures to save lives:

1. Move to safer and higher areas as a matter of urgency.
2. Follow weather updates through various communication channels and platforms.
3. Avoid crossing flooded rivers and walking through running water.
4. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires and report about fallen power lines to authorities.
5. Do not attempt to save personal property at the expense of lives.
6. Move and store essential property in safe higher grounds.
7. If you can manage, provide first aid treatment to the injured, those in shock and call for medical help.

Meanwhile, the department is treating the warning with urgency. Apart from alerting councils; DoDMA has activated all clusters (sector working groups) for swift preparatory and anticipatory actions.

DoDMA has also made standby arrangements for the deployment of a search and rescue team comprising the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), the Malawi Police Service (MPS) the Marine Department and the Malawi Red Cross Society.

The department is also working with DCCMS and councils in disseminating early warning messages and raise awareness on the looming cyclone.

Councils in disaster-prone areas have been called upon to alert area and village disaster risk management committees to further alert and assist vulnerable communities to move to nearby evacuation centres. Councils are further advised to alert the department at the earliest opportunity in the event that communities are affected by the storm.

For more information, kindly contact DoDMA's Principal Information Management and Public Relations Officer, Chipiliro Khamula on 0999 043 228 or 0884 572 844, email, info.dodma@dodma.gov.mw.

Issued in Lilongwe on the 13th Day of December, 2024.

Charles Kalemba

COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AFFAIRS

Disaster Risk Reduction is Everyone's Responsibility!